

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed April 1, 2008 has been reviewed in detail and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 21, 23, 27, 30, and 44-50 are pending in the application. Claims 21, 44, 46, and 47 are allowed, and claims 23, 27, 30, 45, and 48-50 are rejected.

Claims 23, 27, 30, 45, and 48-50 have been canceled. Claim 21 has been amended and claims 51 and 52 have been added, however, no new matter has been introduced into the application. As explained in more detail below, Applicant respectfully submits that all the remaining pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 23, 45, and 48-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Metso et al (US 5,920,826), hereinafter "Metso," in view of Kamada et al. (US 6,192,258), hereinafter "Kamada."

Claims 27 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Metso in view of Laursen et al. (US 2004/0229595), hereinafter "Laursen."

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejections, however, claims 23, 27, 30, 45, and 48-50 have been canceled making the rejection thereof moot.

With respect to newly added dependent claims 51 and 52, Applicant respectfully submits that each of these claims ultimately depend from independent claims 21 and 44, respectively, which the Examiner has indicated is allowed, and therefore, claims 51 and 52 are each allowable for at least the same reasons with respect to independent claims 21 and 44. Additionally, claims 51 and 52 correspond to elements of previously-examined, now-canceled, claims 30 and 23, respectively, rewritten to depend from allowed claims 21 and 44, and therefore no new matter has been introduced into claims 51 and 52.

Application. No.: 10/060,385
Reply to Office Action of April 1, 2008

Applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should it be deemed necessary to facilitate prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: July 1, 2008

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dima N. Moussa', is written over a horizontal line.

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